

heating the middle portion and cooling the inner waste piece including the sub-steps
of,

placing said middle portion proximate to but not in contact with a surface of a
heating element,

placing a cooling element against the inner waste piece, and

lifting the inner waste piece relative to the middle portion to thereby separate
the inner waste piece from the middle portion; and
separating the inner waste piece from the middle portion.

17. (Twice Amended) Method comprising:

providing a glass work piece that surrounds a waste piece;

heating the glass work piece using a heating element having a fixed heating surface
without mechanically contacting the major surfaces of said work piece;

cooling the waste piece, wherein the waste piece contracts relative to the work piece,
and the work piece expands relative to the waste piece; and

separating the work piece from the waste piece.

24. (Twice Amended) Method comprising:

providing a work piece comprising a crack extending all the way through the
thickness of the work piece, said crack having a closed shape such that the crack surrounds a
first portion of said work piece and is surrounded by a second portion of said work piece,

causing a temperature differential between said first and second portions subsequent
to the providing step such that the first portion has a greater temperature than the second
portion, thereby facilitating the separation of the first and second portions.

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36. (Amended) Method comprising:

providing a temperature difference between a product piece and a waste piece so that said waste piece and product piece can be moved relative to one another;

moving one of said product piece or said waste piece so that said moved product piece or waste piece is close enough to a vacuum chuck so as to be held by the vacuum chuck; and

causing said vacuum chuck to hold said moved product piece or waste piece.

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40. (Twice Amended) Method comprising:

providing a work piece and a waste piece;

placing one of the waste piece or the product piece adjacent to a temperature element, said temperature element changing the temperature of the adjacent waste piece or product piece so that the waste piece and produce pieces can be displaced relative to one another; and

moving the adjacent waste piece or product piece by moving the temperature element in order that the waste and product pieces are displaced relative to one another.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-44 are presently active in this case. Claims 1, 17, 24, 36, and 40 have been amended and claims 6 and 45-47 have been canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Applicant's arguments filed August 21, 2002 were indicated as being fully considered, but were deemed unpersuasive.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the steps recited in original claim 6. As rewritten, claim 1 defines that the heating the middle portion and cooling the inner waste